11 February 1981



We were delighted to learn that your assignment as NIO for the Near East is finally set. It was a hard struggle, but we won in the end. I am a little unclear as yet as to timing, but we obviously want as short a gap as possible between your precedessor's departure and your arrival. The estimates business is booming and the policy pot is bubbling as the new Administration fights to bring itself to birth; there is lots to do. All my best.

Richard Lehman Chairman National Intelligence Council